

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When an image signal is acquired, an encryption key is created, and the acquired image signal is encrypted with the
5 created encryption key. An image based on the encrypted image signal is formed on a sheet having a memory, and the encryption key is written into the memory. The encrypted image formed on the sheet is read, and the encryption key is read from the memory. The image signal of the read encrypted image is decrypted with the
10 read encryption key, and the original image based on the decrypted image signal is formed on a sheet.